	nventory of His		es Form su	rvey No. B-4950
1. Name				
Historic and / common	256 – 260 North Bruce	Street		
2. Location				
street & number	256 – 260 North Bruce	e Street		
city, town	Baltimore			
state & zip code	Maryland 21205	county		
3. Classifica	ation			
Category district	Ownership public	Status X occupied	Present Use agriculture	museum
X building(s)	X private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	X private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	X yes: restricted	government	scientific
_ object	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	_ not applicable	no	military	_ other:
4. Owner o	f Property			
name				
street & number			telepl	none
city, town		state & z	ip code	
5. Location	of Legal Descr	iption		
courthouse, registry of	of deeds, etc. Baltimore City			liber
street & number		hell Courthouse		folio
city, town Baltim	nore	State	Maryland	
6. Represer	itation in Existi	ing Historical S	Surveys	
title				
date		federal stat	e county	local
depository for survey	records	otal.	County	10001
city, town		state & zi	ip code	
CONTRACTOR DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE			According to the second	

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4950

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One	
excellent good fair	_x deteriorated ruins unexposed	$\underline{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}}$ unaltered X altered	X original site moved: date of move:	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of three two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden cornices were built c. 1885 - 1890 and are typical of a type of house built particularly in southwest Baltimore where the house is only two rooms deep but sits on a high basement, containing the kitchen. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted.

The houses are two stories in height, 12'wide, and occupy lots 55' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses sit on very high basements, where the kitchen is located. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roof is capped by a simple wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding set above a frieze area decorated with small, horizontally-grooved modillions. The lower edge of the frieze panel is bordered by a cut-work band of scallop shapes.

The façade show particularly fine brickwork in the segmentally arched brick lintels, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are brick. The builder attempted to give a particularly fashionable look to the façade by placing two tall and narrow windows on the first floor—either to give the effect of a three-bay, main street house, or to imitate the effect of the paired first floor windows in the row directly across the street. All windows have 1/1 sash or are boarded over. Doorways have single-light transoms but no original doors remain. The houses sit on very high basements lit by two single-light sashes with wood lintels, set directly beneath the two narrow windows on the first floor. There is also an entrance to the basement kitchen at the front of the house, a few steps down from the sidewalk. The front door is reached by eight wood or metal steps, set parallel to the façade.

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Maryland Inventory	of Historic	Prop	erties	Form

Survey No. B-4950

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify		
prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	X community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration industry invention	landscape architecturelawliteraturemilitarymusicphilosophypolitics/government	religion science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theatre transportation other: specify
Specific dates c. 1	1885 - 1890		Builder/Architect	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses significant as representing the level of architectural stylishness builders were willing to give to small street houses in the late nineteenth century and is testament to the fact that their was no stigma attached to small street living. They represent a form of house particular to southwest Baltimore—only two rooms deep with the kitchen located in the basement—a design that allowed builders to build on much shorter lots. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast and southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-bay-wide, two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-bay-wide, two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity to the slaughterhouses of southwest Baltimore and their related industries, particularly the William Wilkens & Co. Curled Hair Manufactory, one of the largest employers in the area. A number of German-American owned breweries were also located in this section of the city. Moderately-priced housing was built to provide homes for the mainly German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in these rapidly expanding industries in the decades after the Civil War.

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Survey No. B-4950

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Quadrangle name	
Verbal boundary description and justification	

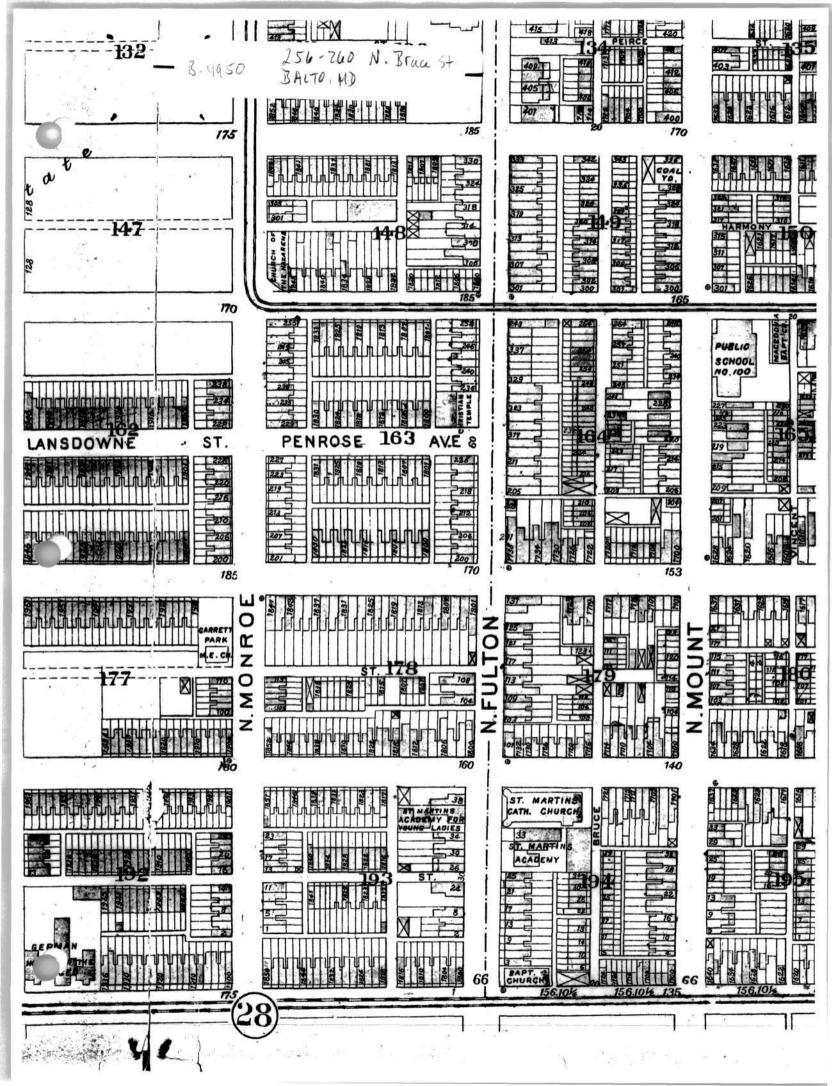
11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr	Mary Ellen Hayward			
Organization Th	ne Alley House Project	date		
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.	telephone	·	
city, town	Baltimore	state & zip code	Maryland	21204

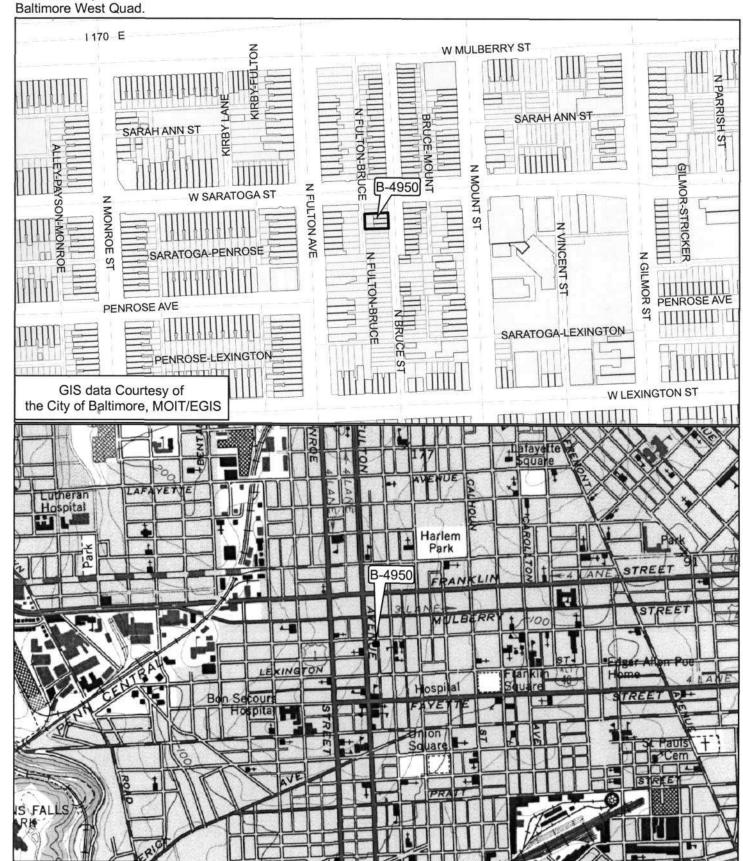
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotate Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement crights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4950 256-260 N. Bruce Street Block 0164 Baltimore City





B-4950

254-240 N.

Bruce St.

BALTO, MS

W. Wield

WOSHPO 1/2



B-4950 256 N. Brucst. BACTO MD W. Nield 6100

MD SAPO

2/2